

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: FRASER HEARINGS

1. FOURTH SESSION OF FRASER HEARINGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA JUNE 12 HEARD STATEMENTS FROM DONALD RANARD (FORMER COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR KOREA), PROF. CHONG SIK LEE (UNIV. OF PENN.), LEONARD MEEKER (FORMER DEPT. LEGAL ADVISER) AND REV. MICHAEL MC FADDEN (COLUMBIAN MISSIONARY FROM WONJU). HEARINGS WERE WELL-ATTENDED BY PUBLIC BUT ONLY THREE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE PRESENT.

2. AS LEAD-OFF WITNESS, RANARD DESCRIBED PRESENT KOREAN GOVERNMENT AS MOST UNDEMOCRATIC IN KOREA SINCE INDEPENDENCE AND STATED THERE ARE PRACTICALLY NO HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA TODAY. THERE IS, FOR EXAMPLE, NO FREEDOM OF PRESS, NO ACADEMIC FREEDOM, NO DUE PROCESS, AND NO RIGHT TO PETITION FOR REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES. A VAST, AFFLUENT AND CRUEL KCIA IS REGIME'S INSTRUMENT OF CONTROL. KCIA AGENTS PRESENT IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEVERAL US CITIES IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO BASIS ON WHICH USG APPROVES THEIR ASSIGNMENTS. KCIA AGENTS IN US WHO NOT ENGAGED IN INTELLIGENCE LIAISON SHOULD BE EXPELLED.

3. CONCERNING SECURITY QUESTIONS, RANARD ARGUED IT

UNLIKELY NORTH KOREA WILL OPT FOR MILITARY SOLUTION.

HOWEVER, KOREA IS IMPORTANT TO US INTERESTS. BASIC US OBJECTIVE ON KOREAN PENINSULA IS AVOIDANCE OF WAR. THERE IS NEED FOR CONTINUED US MILITARY ASSISTANCE BUT ONLY ON SALES BASIS WITH CONGRESSIONAL CONTROLS INCLUDING CEILINGS UNTIL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IMPROVED. US SHOULD CONTINUE PROCESS OF REDUCING FORCES BEGUN IN 1971. US SECURITY COMMITMENT TO KOREA IS A SOBER OBLIGATION AND SHOULD BE MAINTAINED.

4. RANARD STRONGLY CRITICIZED US POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA AND DESCRIBED US OFFICIAL REACTION AS MUZZLED AND MORALLY CONTRADICTORY WITH US TRADITIONS. US IS INVOLVED IN KOREA AND HAS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES THERE. UNLESS PRESENT TRENDS ARE REVERSED, RANARD PREDICTED TROUBLE IN ROK AND RECOMMENDED USG ADOPT ROLE WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH IS HONORABLE AND CONSISTENT WITH US IDEALS.

5. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, RANARD STATED HE IS IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH PRESENT US KOREAN POLICIES WITH EXCEPTION HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION. HE HAD ADVOCATED MORE FORTHRIGHT APPROACH BUT DEPT CONSENSUS WAS SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS MORE IMPORTANT THAN HUMAN RIGHTS. PAST USG REPRESENTATIONS HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL BECAUSE THEY WERE COUCHED SOLELY IN TERMS OF CONGRESSIONAL REACTION AND WERE NOT BACKED BY FULL WEIGHT OF USG. HE SAID HE RECEIVED CONSTANT COMPLAINTS WHILE COUNTRY DIRECTOR OF KCIA INTIMIDATIONS OF KOREANS IN US. HE SPOKE TO ROK EMBASSY ABOUT THIS AND SENIOR KCIA OFFICER WAS SENT HOME.

6. AMBASSADOR MEEKER CALLED ROKG POLICE STATE WHICH PRACTICES POLITICAL REPRESSION FAR BEYOND NEEDS OF PRUDENT DEFENSE AGAINST A HOSTILE NORTH. US IS DEEPLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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INVOLVED IN KOREA AND US ACTIONS SHORE UP A "BRUTAL DICTATORSHIP." PARK'S ACTIONS ALIENATE POPULAR SUPPORT AND ERODE INTERNAL STABILITY. IF OPPOSITION DEVELOPS IN VIOLENT DIRECTION, MEEKER SAW KOREA AS POSSIBLY ANOTHER VIETNAM. BECAUSE OF OUR MILITARY INVOLVEMENT AND POSSIBILITY OF NORTH KOREAN MILITARY ACTION, THERE ARE SPECIAL DANGERS FOR US IN KOREA.

7. MEEKER RECOMMENDED THAT US, JAPAN, PRC, AND USSR CONCERT TO INFLUENCE TWO KOREAS TO ADOPT NON-AGGRESSTON POLICY, TO LIMIT ARMS SUPPLIES, TO WITHDRAW FOREIGN FORCES AND TO BRING ABOUT IMPROVED NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS. US SHOULD EXPLAIN TO ROKG THAT OUR FORCES WILL BE WITH-

DRAWN AND THAT CONGRESS MUST APPROVE USE OF US MILITARY FORCE IN KOREA UNDER PROVISION OF MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY. WITH REGARD TO ROKG INTERNAL POLICIES, MEEKER ADVOCATED TYING ALL FUTURE US AID AND SUPPORT TO PROGRESS IN ESTABLISHING HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES. IN ADDITION, US SHOULD WITHHOLD ALL NUCLEAR FUEL FOR KOREA UNTIL SATISFACTORY SAFEGUARD ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE AND FUEL SHOULD BE REPROCESSED ONLY IN CONTROLLED FACILITIES OUTSIDE KOREA.

8. DR. LEE CRITICIZED INTERNAL POLICIES OF PARK GOVERNMENT BUT ANALYZED PARK'S MOTIVES. HIS ACTIONS RESULT NOT ONLY FROM DESIRE FOR POWER BUT ALSO FROM FAILURE OF US POLICY IN ASIA IN RECENT YEARS TO CONVINCE ROK OF US DEPENDABILITY AS AN ALLY AND CONTINUING DANGER OF NORTH KOREAN ATTACK. HOWEVER, PARK FAILED TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL CONSENSUS BY NOT MAINTAINING DIALOGUE WITH OPPOSITION AND TREATING ALL CRITICS AS ENEMIES. AFTER INDOCHINA COLLAPSE, LEE SAW CONSENSUS DEVELOPING IN US THAT THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO KOREA IS OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE, BOTH WITH RESPECT TO JAPAN AND AS TESTING GROUND FOR CREDIBILITY OF ALL US COMMITMENTS ABROAD. AT SAME TIME, IF ROK IS TO BE DEPENDABLE ALLY, IT MUST HAVE A VIABLE POLITICAL SYSTEM BASED ON BROAD CONSENSUS, ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. US SHOULD NOT PUNISH KOREA BY WITHDRAWAL BUT SHOULD PERSUADE PARK TO ACHIEVE VIABLE NATIONAL CONLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SENSUS THROUGH RECONCILIATION WITH HIS OPPONENTS.

9. STATEMENT BY FATHER MCFADDEN WAS LARGELY ACCOUNT OF PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS OF KOREAN SCENE. HE NOTED HIS CONCERN FOR ROKG EXCESSES, PARTICULARLY PRP AND KIM CHI HA CASES. HOWEVER, AMERICANS SHOULD NOT EXPECT DEMOCRACY TO ROOT READILY IN KOREA AND SHOULD UNDERSTAND CERTAIN FREEDOMS MUST BE SACRIFICED BECAUSE OF UNUSUAL SECURITY SITUATION IN KOREA. OPPOSITION PARTY IS NOT A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO PRESENT GOVERNMENT. US SHOULD NOT REDUCE ITS SECURITY PROGRAMS. AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, US SHOULD PERSUADE ROKG TO IMPROVE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ALONG LINES OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN MAY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT.

10. COPIES OF RANARD, MEEKER AND LEE STATEMENTS POUCHED EMBASSY.

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